

A poison cloud over our land

IT WAS with great alarm that I read the report 'Farewell to the plough' by your farming correspondent. I am amazed at the irresponsibility of farmers in spraying that lethal poison paraquat wholesale over the land when there is no known antidote.

What assurances can we be given that ramblers, cyclists, motorists and others are not to be put at mortal risk by drifting spray? On more than one occasion I have come upon a cloud of spray drifting across a road from an adjacent field, while driving in my open car. I do not relish the prospect of meeting another more lethal variety.

For how long does treated ground remain a hazard, particularly to anyone unaware of its having been so treated? What safeguards are employed, and how effective are they, bearing in mind that the farming fraternity are not necessarily the most careful of people in handling their chemical brews?

The use of paraquat (Gramoxone) should be banned; at least until an effective antidote has been found.

R. HOWDEN,
Tadley, Hampshire.

standing charge is a complete mystery to me. When I started work as a telegraphist 30-or-so years ago, the going price was nine words for a shilling, and we were inundated with traffic at our small provincial office.

At today's prices it is little wonder that the small area offices no longer take incoming telephone traffic—the amount of work must be more than amply coped with by the central area offices.

I will have to be extremely desperate, as I was a short while ago, before I use the service again.

Name and Address supplied.

Sensitive sex?

DIANE Lake (Letters) must be an over-sensitive female to take umbrage at a motoring page reference to a device 'so easy to use that a girl can fix it.' Surely Ms Lake will admit that, just as there are many things the average woman can do far better than the average man, the reverse is also true.

Over the years, I have changed a number of flat tyres for women and



MPs and Presidents succeed or fail on their TV images. Miss Newman's

criticise them. If you do watch—you obviously like them.' Give up, Mr Staples—you can't win.

J. WADE,
Astor Drive, Peterborough.

Don't be daft!

I WOULD like to show every British car worker 'raring to strike' the unending stream of foreign cars being carried inland from our ports by British Rail. If they find themselves out of work in two or three years, whom will they blame? As a union member for about 55 years and one who did not retire until turned 76, I say: 'Don't be daft. Get that stream of cars going the other way for export.'

L. W. PYWELL,
Shipley, Yorkshire.

Leyland lunatics

SO once again the Leyland men are 'raring to strike.' Wouldn't it be nice—if we could stand the shock—to read that they are 'raring to work'?

facts that we can expect to entail type of assistance that will enable to secure the future of the school.

We are campaigning to save school on the grounds that, as a social and educational experiment, its doubtful success must overrule suggestion of its possible closure, are therefore taking a long-term of the school's prospects in addition to safeguarding the interests of present pupils and staff. It is for reason that the old boys are taking a leading role, thus ensuring a more objective approach.

It costs £1,850-a-year per boy to educate children at Ottershaw which average parental contribution is £600. The cost to the ratepayers is therefore, at most, £1,250. From a point of detail, the mansion is not 90 years old. Built in 1911, therefore only 66 years old.

IAIN G. HISLOP,
Save Ottershaw School Action Group,
Redway Drive,
Whitton, Twickenham.

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R. Howden.

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